

To: Bahrman, Sarah[Bahrman.Sarah@epa.gov]
From: Ken Bousfield
Sent: Fri 8/7/2015 7:31:39 PM
Subject: Fwd: Update from Denver ATSDR RE: Mine water pulse
[tfactsaluminum.pdf](#)
[tfactszinc.pdf](#)

Another up date.

Ken B

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Erica Gaddis <egaddis@utah.gov>
Date: Fri, Aug 7, 2015 at 12:59 PM
Subject: Fwd: Update from Denver ATSDR RE: Mine water pulse
To: Ken Bousfield <kbousfield@utah.gov>, Ying-Ying Macauley <ymacauley@utah.gov>

FYI from DOH toxicologist.

Erica

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Craig Dietrich <dietrich@utah.gov>
Date: Fri, Aug 7, 2015 at 12:13 PM
Subject: Update from Denver ATSDR RE: Mine water pulse
To: Erica Gaddis <egaddis@utah.gov>
Cc: Sam LeFevre <slefevre@utah.gov>

Hi Erica,

I just got off the phone with our Regional folks in Denver, so far the main human health talking points are:

- The only water testing data available find that the water pH fluctuated between 7 and 5.5. 5.5 is roughly the acidity of black coffee. As far as recreational contact, this may result in eye irritation.
- The primary metals thought to be present are aluminum, iron and zinc (I've attached toxfaqs for Zn and Al, Fe is hard on fish gills but not a big exposure issue for humans)

As far as transport, initial estimate is that the pulse will reach Farmington, NM this evening. At Farmington, it will mix with the San Juan R. and have to travel another 50-60 miles to Utah.

Low pH will keep metals in solution, however, as pH stabilizes the metals will precipitate out to the sediment.

ATSDR will keep me updated. It appears from the available info that human health impact from recreational usage will be low. If rafters are filtering and purifying river water for consumption, that should be protective (especially if they are allowing turbid waters to settle before

filtration/purification as is standard practice).

Its harder to make a good call on livestock watering until EPA produces some more water data, but based upon the limited info available, that risk also appears to be low.

Feel free to relay this info to the DE in San Juan County. Since you are their point of contact, I am not planning to contact San Juan County Health District Engineers or Health Department unless you request me to do so.

I'll keep you updated,

Craig

--

Craig J. Dietrich, Ph.D., DABT
Toxicologist
Health Program Manager II
Environmental Epidemiology Program
Utah Department of Health
Phone: 801-538-6832
Fax: 801-538-6564

***** IMPORTANT MESSAGE *****

This message, including any attachments, may contain confidential information intended for a specific individual and purpose, and is protected by law. If you are not the intended recipient, delete this message, including from trash, and notify me by telephone or email.

If you are not the intended recipient, any distribution or copying of this message, or the taking of any action based on its content is strictly prohibited.

--

Erica Brown Gaddis, Ph.D.
Assistant Director

Division of Water Quality
Utah Department of Environmental Quality
195 North 1950 West
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116
P 801.536.4314 | F 801.536.4301
C 801.205.3769

--

Ken Bousfield, P.E., Director
Utah Division of Drinking Water
195 North 1950 West
Salt Lake City UT 84114-4830
Phone: 801-536-4207
Fax: 801-536-4211
e-mail: kbousfield@utah.gov